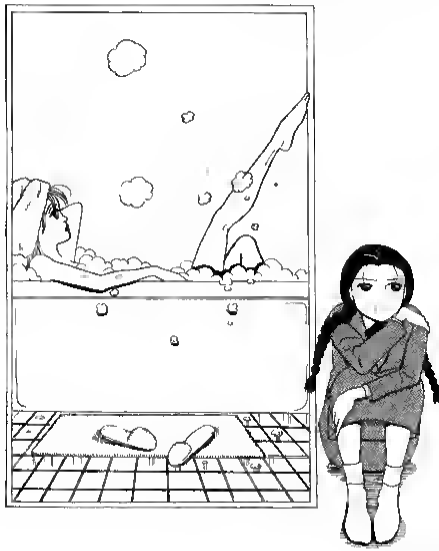
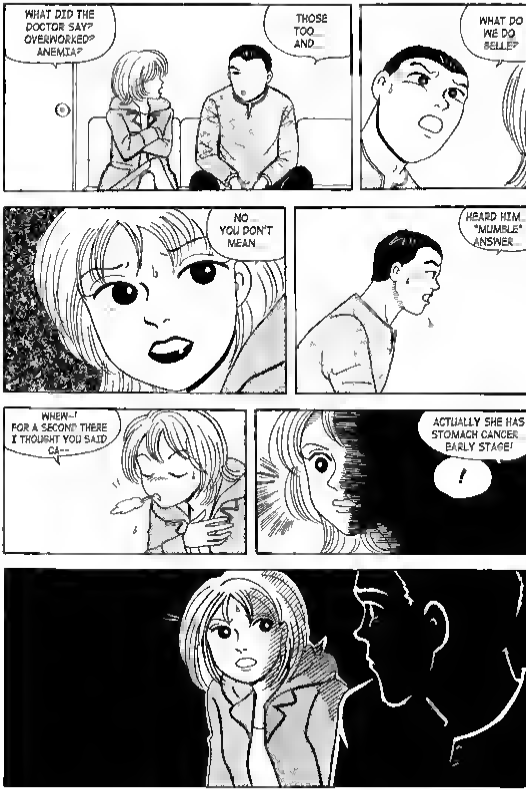
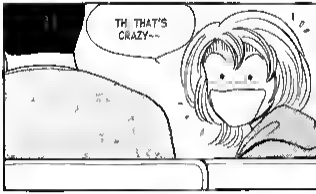
EIGHTEENTH STORY



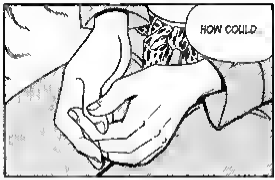
ROK!
ROK!
ROK!!

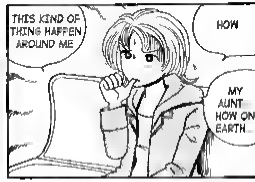
AUNTIE! ARE YOU WITH ME?
...WHERE'S ROK?
SHE SHOULD BE AT SCHOOL OF COURSE! AUNTIE ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WE'RE AT THE HOSPITAL DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?
AT THE HOSPITAL?
YOU COLLAPSED DURING YOUR FIELD RESEARCH! YOUR CO-WORKERS HAVE JUST LEFT
KLK
AUNTIE SLEEP A BIT MORE
O...OKAY
IS SHE AWAKE?
YEAH
HAVE A MINUTE?
OKAY

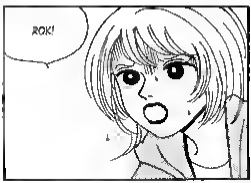

WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY? OVERWORKED? ANEMIA?
THOSE TOO... AND...
WHAT DO WE DO SELL?
NO YOU DON'T MEAN
HEARD HIM... "MUMBLE" ANSWER...
WHEW~! FOR A SECOND THERE I THOUGHT YOU SAID CA~
ACTUALLY SHE HAS STOMACH CANCER. EARLY STAGE!
!


TH THAT'S CRAZY~~

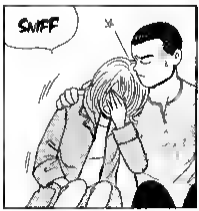
SHE HAS A GOOD CHANCE TO BE CURED IF SHE HAS AN OPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

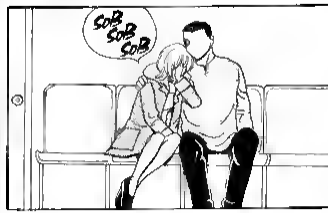

HOW COULD


THIS KIND OF THING HAPPEN AROUND ME
HOW
MY AUNT HOW ON EARTH


ROK!

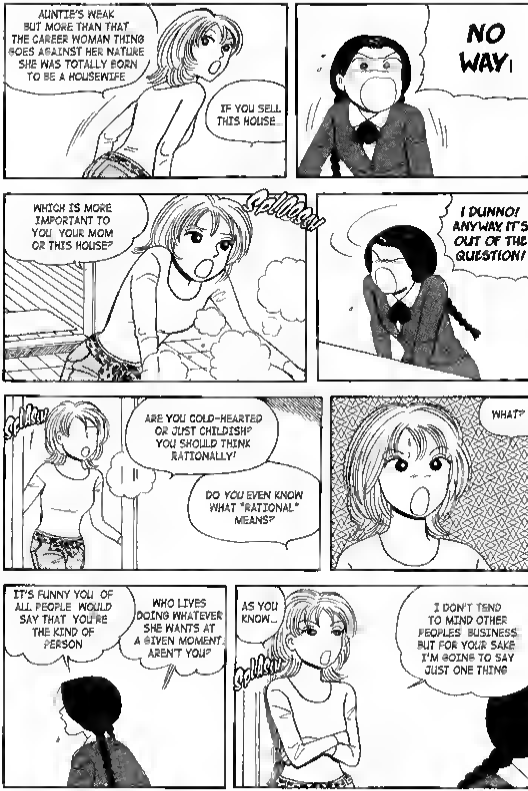
HOW WILL OUR POOR ROK TAKE THIS ...


SNIFF

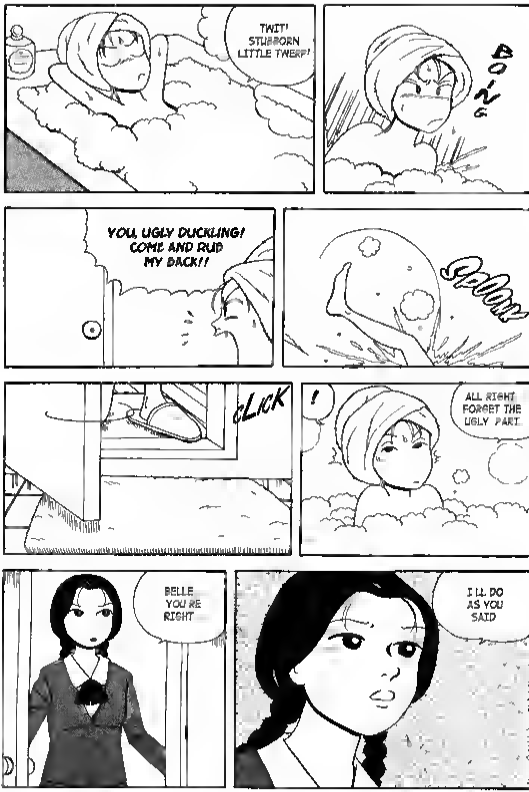

SOB SOB SOB

ROK!
!
YOU DIDN'T BRING THE KEYS?
WHERE THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN? REALLY...
YOUR MOM COLLAPSED
WHAT?!
WHY DID MOM ?!
THEY SAY IT'S STOMACH CANCER

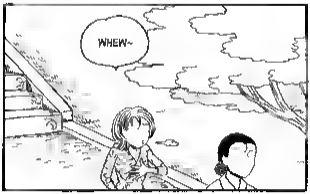
AHHH
WAHH
MOM~~
MOM~~
SINCE IT'S EARLY STAGE CANCER AN OPERATION CAN FIX IT
WAAHH
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
THEN THE COST OF THE OPERATION IS THE PROBLEM, HUH?
NO~ I SPOKE TO MY MOM SHE'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF IT!
THIS IS IRRELEVANT BUT HOW ABOUT SELLING THIS HOUSE OR?
WHAT ?!

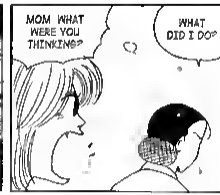

AUNTIE'S WEAK BUT MORE THAN THAT THE CAREER WOMAN THING GOES AGAINST HER NATURE SHE WAS TOTALLY BORN TO BE A HOUSEWIFE
IF YOU SELL THIS HOUSE...
NO WAY!
WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU YOUR MOM OR THIS HOUSE?
SHIMAU
I DUNNO! ANYWAY IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!
ARE YOU COLD-HEARTED OR JUST CHILDISH? YOU SHOULD THINK RATIONALLY!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT "RATIONAL" MEANS?
WHAT?
IT'S FUNNY YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON
WHO LIVES DOING WHATEVER SHE WANTS AT A GIVEN MOMENT... AREN'T YOU?
AS YOU KNOW...
I DON'T TEND TO MIND OTHER PEOPLES BUSINESS BUT FOR YOUR SAKE I'M GOING TO SAY JUST ONE THING

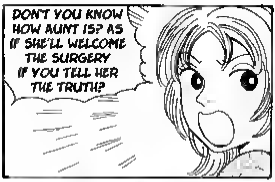
SO! ASOU !
IF I WERE YOU I WOULD VALUE MY MOM MORE THAN THIS MEANINGLESS HOUSE. IF SHE CAN BE COMFORTABLE I'D THINK OF LOSING THE HOUSE AS A SMALL COST
...?
...??
...???
..!
...?
SO FRUSTRATING~
KWA!
KWA!
KRUNCH
EEAACK
KRA
YOU'RE SO STUBBORN FOR A LITTLE BRAT!
IT'S YOUR MOM AND YOUR HOUSE, SO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
WHAM
WHY SHOULD I CARE?

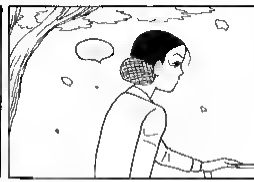

TWIT! STUBBORN LITTLE TWERP!
BONG
YOU, UGLY DUCKLING! COME AND RUB MY BACK!!
SLOOP
CLICK
!
ALL RIGHT. FORGET THE UGLY PART.
BELLE, YOU'RE RIGHT
I'LL DO AS YOU SAID

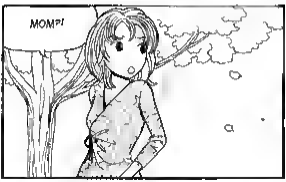
KEPPA HOSPITAL
WHY?
I'M PERFECTLY FINE AS IT IS THEN WHY
I WANNA GO HOME SIS!
GOSH~ THIS IS FRUSTRATING! WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN?
KRUMP LET ME JUST BE FRANK
ACTUALLY! YOU...
WOBBLE
MOM!
?
AROUND YOUR N NECK AREA IN UM STOMACH NO ESOPHAGUS THERE S...
A VERY VERY TINY LU LUMP SO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A SIMPLE OPERATION...
DRIP
DRIP
PANICH
IT CAN'T BE...
CANCER? IS IT?
A, AD, ABSOLUTELY NOT!

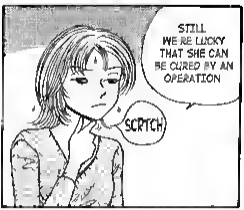


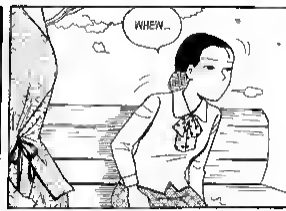












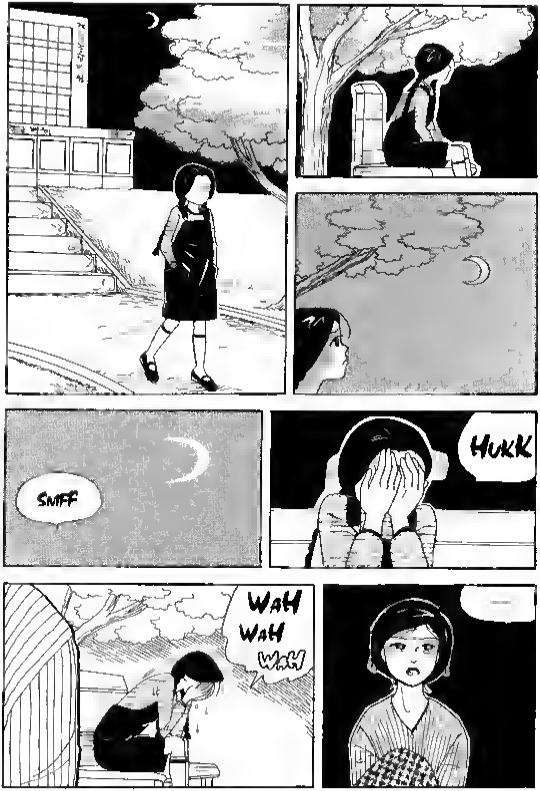
* THE THREE DISASTERS ARE THOSE CAUSED BY FIRE, WIND AND WATER. THE EIGHT HARDSHIPS ARE THOSE RELATED TO ILLNESS, PARENTS, SIBLINGS, LOSS OF WEALTH, MARRIAGE, STUDIES, MANAGEMENT OF WEALTH, DEBAUCHERY. THE THREE DISASTERS ARE DEEMED AS EVIL SPIRITS' ENERGY THAT COMES TO EVERYONE IN TWELVE YEAR CYCLES.

MOM?
MO—M—
MY POOR KRUMB. WHAT DO I DO?
FRANKLY, SHE IS PRETTY, BUT SHE'S LAGGED BEHIND ALL OF US SIBLINGS IN EVERY OTHER RESPECT.
WE WERE RELIEVED WHEN SHE GOT MARRIED TO A GOOD MAN! BUT THEN HE DIED AND NOW SHE HAS CANCER.
WHOOSH
YOU'RE NOT MUCH BETTER THOUGH..
!
MUST YOU ALWAYS SPIT OUT THE TRUTH THAT EVERYONE'S ALREADY AWARE OF? DOES THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
HMM..

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE COMPANY!
BUT... STILL...
I'M TELLING YOU IT'S FINE!
ROK SO ON HOME--- YOU SHOULD STUDY
FORGET IT!
MUNCH MUNCH
CHEW CHEW
?
WHAT?
YOU'VE REALLY GROWN A LOT SWEETIE...
FISH WEEDS TEND TO GROW WELL NO MATTER WHAT
YOU DON'T WANT MORE ORANGE?
NO
GULP

ROK WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME WITH BELLE I'LL BE HERE TONIGHT
!
AUNTIE I WANNA STAY WITH MOM TODAY
WHEN KRUM@'S RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL, YOU'RE GOING HOME WITH ME OKAY?
culpa qui
officiur
NO!
ut mollit anim
id est laborum
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE THIS WAY?
HOW COULD I LEAVE BEHIND SICK AUNTIE AND LITTLE ROK?
WHAT?!
!
ACTUALLY THAT SOUNDS RIGHT
WHEW
THEN I SHOULD MEET BEAU TOMORROW MORNING!
MOM!

ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU LOVE THIS HOUSE MORE THAN YOU DO YOUR LIFE...!
NO! I'VE ALREADY MADE UP MY MIND MOM!
I WAS A BIT TIRED THIS TIME THAT'S ALL...
EVEN YOU-MOM!
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO EVEN YOU? WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
YOU SEE I'M DOING BETTER WITH MY JOB THAN YOU THINK
IF YOU HAD TAKEN CARE OF YOUR HEALTH AND MANAGED TO LIVE RIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN GOOD!
BUT...
PLEASE TRY BEING STRONG OKAY?! I'M SICK AND TIRED WORRYING ABOUT YOU MOM!!
BAM!


SNIFF
HUKK
WAH
WAH
WAH

YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH A COLD
...!
...?
HEY~~ I AM NOT COLD
LET'S GO INSIDE
I HATE DAD
!
JUST SELL THE HOUSE!
LET'S REALLY FORGET DAD!